

Daniel selected for Air Force S&T position

by Leah Bryant, AFRL headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO - The Air Force announced in March that Dr. Donald C. Daniel is the new deputy assistant secretary for science, technology and engineering. Daniel will replace Dr. Helmut Hellwig who has served as the deputy assistant since 1996. Prior to Hellwig's tenure, for four months in 1995, Daniel was the acting deputy assistant secretary for the office he now will run and played a key role in setting it up.

As the new deputy assistant secretary, Daniel will be responsible for Air Force policy and investments in science and technology, as well as systems engineering (manufacturing technology and quality, standards, weapon system pollution and industrial base issues). He will also serve as the Air Force's senior technology executive in interactions with other services, the office of the Secretary of Defense and other agencies on a national and international level.

Daniel is currently the executive director for the Air Force Research Laboratory, headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Since 1997, he has been the laboratory's senior civilian executive for all aspects of the AFRL mission and responsible for the full spectrum of Air Force basic research, exploratory development and advanced development.

"This is really a challenging position," Daniel said. "These are difficult times but I'm going in with my eyes open. I think the Air Force has done a good job of getting me ready for the challenge. I also appreciate the excellent job that Dr. Hellwig has done the last three years during his tenure as the deputy assistant secretary. I will inherit a first-class organization from him.

"I've been fortunate through the years to have already worked with many of the current key players in the Pentagon. I look forward to working with them now on a daily basis.

"I think this is a good time for me to move to this new assignment. We've made it through the initial reorganization and stand-up of AFRL successfully. The senior people we have in our laboratory are an outstanding group of scientists, engineers and administrators. I'm confident AFRL will continue to do very well."

"We're going to miss Don's guidance greatly," said Maj. Gen. Richard R. Paul, AFRL commander.

"He's had a hand in selecting every one of our key

senior civilians. Therefore, I know we have great people where we need them.

"In fact, Don's selection for this position is indicative of the overall quality of our folks. It's good news for the lab in many ways, including now having an 'insider' on the staff of the Secretary of the Air Force."

Daniel was a research engineer with the Boeing Company prior to beginning his Air Force career. At Boeing he conducted mission analyses and digital flight simulations for the Apollo and Saturn V manned



Dr. Donald C. Daniel

lunar landing program under contract to NASA. In 1972, he joined the Armament Laboratory at Eglin AFB, Fla., where he enjoyed a variety of assignments with progressive responsibility, concluding as chief of the Advance Guidance Division in 1988. During this time he was also a member of the adjunct faculty of the University of Florida's Graduate Engineering Center.

Later he served as chief scientist of the Arnold Engineering Development Center, the world's largest and most diverse complex for aerospace ground-testing. Daniel was the deputy director of science and technology, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, from late 1994 until early 1997.

A fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Daniel's principal fields of technical expertise are aerodynamics and flight mechanics, areas in which he has authored or co-authored more than 40 publications. He is on the University of Florida's College of Engineering Advisory Council and the AIAA board of directors. He also serves as a U.S. national delegate for both NATO's Research and Technology Board and its Air Force Armaments Group. @